INTERNAL DIPLOMATIC LETTER

CONFIDENTIAL

Date: July 27, 1965

From: [Ambassador Harman - unsigned but contextually clear]

To: Mr. Moshe Bitan, Misrad Hahuts [Foreign Ministry], Jerusalem

Reference Number: 109.1

Dear Moshe,

Re your letter concerning your talks with Yagupsky about Martin Luther King's visit, you should know that in the A.J.C. [American Jewish Committee] the initiative in this matter came from Irving Engel who knows King well introduced Comay and myself to him at the recent A.J.C. Dinner at which King was honored.

I mentioned to King our invitation to him and he expressed regret that he was so busy that he did not acknowledge it. I renewed the invitation to him.

Engel has strongly urged King to go to Israel. The auspices don't particularly matter to me. It is perfectly clear to me that if King decides to go it will only be at Engel's urging. Not only have I no objection to King going under A.J.C. auspices - but I think they could be even positively advantageous.

The latest development is that King has told Engel there may be a possibility of his going to Israel for a few days if he visits the Organisation of African Unity Conference in Ghana. Arnon, Avidar and I have urged Engel to continue his contacts with King on this.

Would you kindly relay this to Yagupsky. I don't think that we should obtrude the question of auspices in this matter.

Sincerely,

[Ambassador Harman]

cc: H. Arnon
A. Avidar
A.H.